

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 81

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tom Cigarran on his exemplary service as chairman of the board of directors of the Nashville Predators.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a gentleman whose leadership has been instrumental in the unprecedented success of the Nashville Predators franchise and Bridgestone Arena; and

WHEREAS, Tom Cigarran, who became chairman of the board of the Nashville Predators in March 2010, has stepped down from this leadership role, fully confident that the franchise will continue on its upward trajectory under its new chairman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cigarran will still be a valuable member of the team's ownership group and will assume a new role as one of the Predators' alternate governors on the National Hockey League (NHL) Board of Governors; and

WHEREAS, under Tom Cigarran's direction, the Nashville Predators advanced to their first-ever Stanley Cup Final in June 2017, hosted one of the most successful NHL All-Star Weekends in the history of the league in January 2016, and began a sellout streak that is still ongoing, currently standing at 131 games; the Predators' organization has also achieved franchise records in season-ticket sales, sponsorship, and premium seating revenues and established business partnerships with world-class companies; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the 2017 Stanley Cup Final, Tom Cigarran received the ultimate compliment when the Nashville Predators were named the No. 1 franchise in all of sports by ESPN; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cigarran's vision and passion were instrumental in Bridgestone Arena's historic success; the facility was named *Pollstar's* 2014 and 2017 Arena of the Year and

received another nomination for the honor in 2018, while being ranked among the busiest arenas in North America by the publication over the past six years; and

WHEREAS, during his nine years of dedicated leadership, Mr. Cigarran nurtured a loyal and growing fan base while making extraordinary strides toward reaching the franchise's primary goal: to become the No. 1 sports and entertainment venue in the United States with the Stanley Cup-Champion Nashville Predators as its centerpiece; and

WHEREAS, we are most certain that Tom Cigarran will continue to provide valuable input and guidance in elevating the Nashville Predators to even greater heights; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cigarran is proud to be part of an organization that has positively impacted the city and region in such a significant way, and we are thankful that he provided such visionary leadership as chairman of the board; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Tom Cigarran on his exemplary service as chairman of the board of directors of the Nashville Predators, thank him for his ongoing commitment to the civic life of Nashville, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.